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To the NOBILITY, CLERGY, *and* GENTRY *of the City and County of* GLOUCESTER.

ABEL WANTNER *Citizen of* GLOUCESTER, *and Inhabitant of* MINCHEN-HAMPTON *in the County aforesaid &c. most humbly certifieth*

THAT for this Twelve years past he hath made it his great Business and Design to Collect the Antiquities and other remarkable Observations of his Native City and County into one entire Volume; which through Gods assistance will be ready (by this next *Michaelmas* Term) for the Press; being a large Encomiastick History of the City and County of *Glouceſter*, in *Folio*.

Now for the better Information and Incouragement of all Gentlemen and others, that are willing to promote the compleating of so good and useful a work (by way of Subscription) the Author hath here inserted a brief abstract of the most remarkable Heads therein contained, purposely to satisfy the curiosity of many, who possibly otherwise might seem unwilling to Subscribe, before they know the Subject matter on which it treateth.

Be pleased therefore to observe, That First you have the Original Foundation of that once most stately Fabrick, the ancient Abby, or Monastry of *Glouceſter*, with its continuation till *Canutus* the *Dane*.

Secondly, You have a Compendious Memorial of the now Cathedral Church of *Glouceſter*, with the Names of each Founder, and how Endowed, with the variety of other remarkable passages, from *Edward* the Confessor, to King *Henry* the Eighth.

Thirdly, You have its Ordained constitution into a Bishops See, with their prescript Rule of Living; their yearly Stipends, and other allowances, the time when every Bishop and Dean was Consecrated, and Installd, to the late unhappy Wars: with several other things relating thereunto.

Fourthly, You have its particular Dimentions, both within and without, with an account of all Statues, Monuments, Memorials, and Coats of Arms therein contained, with the Articles (of the Chapter) of that Foundation, the supposed valuation of every Minister, and other mens Places belonging thereunto, by the year; with the names of every Bishop and Dean, Arch-Deacons, Chancellors, and Prebends, that have been since His Majesties Restauration to this present year, with most of their Coats of Arms.

Fifthly, You have the Original Denomination and Building of the Village, Burrough, and City of *Glouceſter*, and by whom augmented and increased, trac't through the ancient *Britains*, *Romans &c.* to the Second year of King *Richard* the Third: Begun with variety of Historical Relations, and continued with sundry remarkable and Modern Observations, briefly compiled out of the most approved Authors, as well before as since the Conquest.

Sixthly, You have a particular Survey of the Strength and Fortification of the City of *Glouceſter* before its demolishments, with a compendious narrative of the River *Severn*.

After this you have a general Survey of the whole City by way of Delineation, with the Ancient Names of every Street and Lane, the Description of the demolished Churches where they stood, and to what Parishes they are now annexed.

Seventhly, You have a particular description of every Parish Church now standing in the City, with an account of all Statues, Monuments, Memorials, or Coats of Arms therein contained, and what Charitable Gifts are bequeathed to the Poor of every Parish.

Eighthly, You have an account of all Hospitals, Alms-Houses, Free-Schools, and other Charitable Endowments within the City, with the Names of their Founders, and how many Poor people each of them entertaineth, and what yearly, or weekly Allowance any of them have; and when, and by whom most of the chiefest and eminent places in all the City were built, with many other memorable Observations relating thereunto.

Ninthly, You have the Constitution of its Government, their Number and Assistants, their usual manner of Electing and bringing home of the Mayors *&c.* the Extention of the Mace, and many other remarkable passages, with an account of the Names and Coats of Arms of all those Noble and Potent Princes that have been dignified with the Honorable Titles of Earls and Dukes of *Glouceſter*, with the Ancient and present Arms of the City.

And Lastly, You have the Names of every Mayor, from its first being made a City, to the

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the Reſtauration of His ſacred Majeſty: and from thence to this preſent year, you have the names of every Mayor and Sheriff, with moſt of their Coats of Arms.

So much for the City.

NOW as for the general Deſcription of the County; Firſt you have the particular Diviſion thereof, according to Eccleſiaſtical order, branched forth into Ten Deanaries, briefly compiled into Eight Columns: In the Firſt, you have an Alphabet of every Pariſh Church and Chappel belonging to every Deanary in the County, and to what Abby, Monaſtry or other Religious Houſe it formerly belonged.

In the Second, you have the Names of the preſent Patrons; in the Third the Names of each Miniſter, in the Fourth the ſuppoſed Valuation, in the Fifth their Tenths, in the Sixth their Procurations, in the Seventh, their Penticoſts, and in the Eighth, their Synodals.

Secondly, you have a particular diviſion of the whole County according to the common, or civil Juriſdiction, principally ſeperated into Four Diviſions, which is afterwards drawn into Thirty Hundreds, and Laſtly ſubdivided into Pariſhes, Hamlets, and Tythings; all Alphabetically.

Thirdly, you have an Account of every Market Town, as it lyeth within its Reſpective Hundred, with it's Original Denomination, how Situated, Extended and Bounded, either with Hills, Rivers, Woods or Commons; the Conſtitution of their Goverments, the Antiquity of their Charter; Lords of the Manors, and the particular Trade, or Commerce on which each Town dependeth, and how far diſtant it lyeth from the next adjacent Markets.

Fourthly, you have the Deſcription of every Church belonging to each Market Town, by whom, and when, ſome of them were built, and to what Saint Dedicated; with an account of all Statues, Monuments, Memorials and Coats of Arms contained in any of them, and to what Family they belonged *&c.*

Fifthly, To the intent that the Pious and Charitable Endowments of all well diſpoſed Chriſtians, for and towards the Relief of their poor diſtreſſed brethren, may be publickly recorded to future poſterity, I have here inſerted a Catalogue of moſt if not all the Hoſpitals, Alms-houſes, Free-Schools, and other good and commendable Gifts, bequeathed either to Church, or Poor, in any Market-Town or Village, within this County; with the names of each Donour, and how many poor People every ſuch Hoſpital or Alms-houſe doth entertain, and what weekly allowances, and other priviledges they have, and what every School-maſter and Uſher (if any) have by the Year, and by whom paid.

Sixthly, You have a particular Survey in every Hundred, of all *Roman* and *Mercian* Fortifications, *Saxon* Rampires, and *Daniſh* Camps, with the ſignification of thoſe Piles of Rubbiſh Earth, called Barrows, and what hath been found under many of them; as alſo your Checker-work Pavements, Stouphs, Numiſmata's, Veins of Ore, Quarries, and variety of Solid Stones, found up and down many places in this County *&c.*

Seventhly for the better preſervation of the Honor, and Antiquity of the Nobility and Gentry of this County to further Ages, I have, at the end of the Forreſt Diviſion, inſerted an Alphabet of all his Majeſties preſent Juſtices of the Peace of this County, their Seats and Coats of Arms.

Eighthly, At the end of *Kiſtgate* Diviſion, you have the Names, Seats, and Coats of Arms, of all the High-Sheriffs, and Knights of the Shire, that have been in this County ſince His Majeſties moſt happy Reſtauration.

Ninthly, at the end of the Seven Hundreds Diviſion, you have an account of the Names, Seats and Coats of Arms of all the Knights, Barronets, and Knights of the Bath, belonging to this County, and when moſt of them were either, Doub'd, or Created.

Tenthly for the better Illuſtration of the Work, you have at the end of *Barkley's* Diviſion, the Names, Seats, and Titles of Honor appertaining to the greater Luminaries of the County *viz.* the Viſcounts, Barons, Lords, Earls, Marqueſſes and Dukes, gradually ranked, according to their Aſcending Qualities, with their Shields of Honor, Mantlings, Supporters, and Motto's, diſplayed by pretious Stones.

Eleventhly you have a ſmall Tract of the Military Juriſdiction, and Diſcipline of this County; to which is annexed a Liſt of all His Majeſties Commiſſioned Officers that now are, according to their ſeveral places of Command in a Regimental Order.

Twelfthly, you have an Alphabet of the private Gentlemens Names, Seats, and Coats of Arms.

And laſt of all, you have the Original Denomination, Situation, Enlargements, and Continuation, with ſundry other remarkable Obſervations of the Famous City of BRISTOL, from its firſt Foundation, to the late Unhappy Wars *&c.*

THE Subſcription Mony for, and towards the Compleating of this deſign, is Ten Shillings, *and when the Subſcriber hath received a Book, well bound and handſomely covered, he is to pay* Ten Shillings *more.*

The Author aſſures you that he will Print no more Books than what are Subſcribed for, and thoſe ſhall be Printed on very good Letter and Paper.

CCCCCLXXII

My Lords and Gentlemen.

NOT willing to give the leaſt diſtaſt to any perſon whatſoever; ſome little and immaterial things in my former Propoſals, I have now thought good to omit; and for your better encouragement towards the promoting of this work; (which is now according to my Propoſals ready for the Preſs this *Michaelmas*, 84.) I have here given you the Names of thoſe Honourable and Worthy Gentlemen who have already Subſcribed. And whereas I gave notice of another ſmall Book, wherein is an Alphabet of all the Markets and Fairs with directions from every Market Town to moſt places in the County not exceeding 3 Miles *&c.* to be given *gratis* to each Subſcriber; theſe are to acquaint them that it ſhall be annexed to the *Folio*; and that the Coats of Arms of the Noblemen and Gentry ſhall be Graven in Copper Plates, and before the Book a Graven Frontiſpiece.

Mar. *WORCESTER* 2
Biſh. *GLOUCESTER* 2

Sir *Rob. Yeomans* K^t and Bar.
Sir *Edw. Bathurſt* Baronet.
Sir *Tho. Cutler.*
Sir *Rob. Atkins* Ju. 2
Sir *Fran. Fernagen* Bar.

Phillip Shepperd Eſq;
Tho. Smith Eſq;
Rob. Coderington Eſq;
George Raymond Eſq;
James George Eſq;
Rob. Pleydel Eſq;
Rowland Wood.
Henry Window.
William Denis Eſq;
Tho. Maſter Eſq;

Henry Brett.
Charles Savage.
Charles Smith.
James Stephens.
Robert Sandford.
Joſeph Morwens.
James Gaſtrell.
Tho. Hodges.
Walter Eaſtcourt.
John Hodges.
John Ferrers.
John Phillips.
Tho. Willett.
Juſt. Morſe.
John Phillips Sen.
John Barkſdale.
John Jefferis. Jun.
John Driver.
John Buck.
William King.
Nath. Driver.
Tho. Oldfield.
Tho. Stephens.
George Small.
Thomas Small.
Nath. Paul.
Archilas Daunte.
James Twyford.
Tho. Webb.
Nath. Freind.
James Michel.
Miles Sandys.
Nathaniel Gwynn.
Rich. Caple.
Denis Huntington.
Edward Hill.
Tho. Liddiard.
Daniel Small.
Tho. Small Ju.
John Lyſons.
Peter Heily.
Joſeph Browne.
Joſeph Jackſon.
Giles Stedman.
Giles Eaſtcourt.
Henry Dutton.
Thomas Hooper.
Richard King.
John Cox.
John Eliſs.